

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CU-05 SCI-06

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DRAFTED BY EA/J:CGDUNKERLEY:EVC

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USIA:SZUCKERMAN (SUBS.)

S/S - MR. LUERS

D:MSAMUELS

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R 081457Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172817

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: CALL OF YOSHINORI MAEDA ON DEPUTY SECRETARY

1. YOSHINORI MAEDA, FORMER NHK HEAD AND CURRENT GOJ SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR EXPO '75, CALLED ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AUGUST 7. CONVERSATION CENTERED AROUND POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS TO TANAKA AND EXPO PARTICIPATION.

2. MAEDA NOTED THAT FROM PERSONAL OBSERVATION OF THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE EVENING FOLLOWING MIKI'S RESIGNATION, TANAKA HAD NOT SEEMED "TOO UPSET" BY MIKI'S DEPARTURE. MAEDA PRAISED KIMURA HIGHLY, PREDICTING HE WOULD BECOME THE BEST JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER IN MANY YEARS. OHIRA, HE WENT ON, HAD BEEN UNCOMFORTABLE IN THE POST; THAT OF FINANCE MINISTER WAS MUCH MORE AMENABLE TO HIM. MAEDA DESCRIBED OHIRA'S SITUATION AS "DELICATE" GIVEN HIS STANDING AS FOREMOST CANDIDATE TO SUCCEED TANAKA. HE DID
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NOT APPEAR TO GIVE MUCH WEIGHT TO ANY DAMAGE DONE TO OHIRA'S STANDING BY GOJ-ROC AIR SERVICE IMBROGLIO. IF

OHIRA DID NOT SUCCEED TANAKA, NEXT PRIME MINISTER WOULD BE "SOMEONE VERY NEW." MAEDA SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF TOKUSABURO KOSAKA, WHOM HE NOTED HAD SOME FACTIONAL SUPPORT AMONG YOUNGER DIET MEMBERS. HE APPEARED TO DISCOUNT FUKUDA'S CHANCES AND FELT THAT NAKASONE WOULD NOT PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE BUT WOULD BIDE HIS TIME. MAEDA CONCLUDED THIS WAS SPECULATION ON HIS PART AND THAT TANAKA WOULD BE RE-ELECTED.

3. HAVING JUST COMPLETED A TOUR OF LATIN AMERICA PROMOTING EXPO '75 PARTICIPATION, MAEDA IS NOW CONFIDENT APPROXIMATELY 42-45 COUNTRIES AND 5 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING UN AND EC, WOULD EVENTUALLY JOIN IN EXPO. (IN SEPARATE MEETING WITH USIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR KOPP, MAEDA APPEARED QUITE PLEASED BY PLANS FOR US EXHIBIT). KISSINGER

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